21. Laos
22. Nepal
23. Pakistan
24. P.L.O.
25. P.D.R.Y.
26. Poland
27. Romania
28. Singapore
29. South Korea
30. Sri Lanka
31. Sweden
32. Switzerland
33. U.K.
34. U.S.A.
35. U.S.S.R.
36. Vietnam.

Modernisation of silk industry

1702. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the silk industry's demand for modernisation, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details of the demands of the silk industry; and

(c) what action is contemplated by Government on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments for modernisation of the silk industry, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set up a net work of R&D units for propagating modern and improved techniques of mulberry cultivation, seed production and silk-worm rearing to improve productivity as well as quality of silk production. Similarly through the Demonstration-cum-Training Units set up by CSB, modernisation of the silk reeling and processing industry is being promoted.

With a view to encourage modernisation of the silk reeling processing and weaving industry and keeping in view the requirements of the silk exports sector, the Government have permitted the import of 27 silk machineries under OGI in the new Import-Export Policy 1988—91 with duty concession. Further import of 2 more silk machineries has recently been allowed under O.G.L.

Decline in exports of traditional agricultural items

1703. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of traditional agricultural items have declined considerably during the past few years;

(b) if so, what are the main causes of decline in exports of agricultural items; and

(c) what further efforts Government propose to take to boost the export of agricultural items particularly to Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to boost exports, incentives have been given for various items of agricultural exports in the form of CCS, REP and duty concessions on packing material. Pepper and coffee have been exempted from export duty. Further, to boost exports sustained efforts are made through visits of trade delegations and participation in food fairs and exhibitions held in Europe.